

Claims 1-19 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 1-12, drawn to a medical control device and control method, classified in class 128, subclass 903;

Group II, Claims 13 and 14, drawn to a medical control device, classified in class 607, subclass 30;

Group III, Claims 15-17, drawn to a medical system device, classified in class 607, subclass 59;

Group IV, Claim 18, drawn to a control system, classified in class 607, subclass 31; and

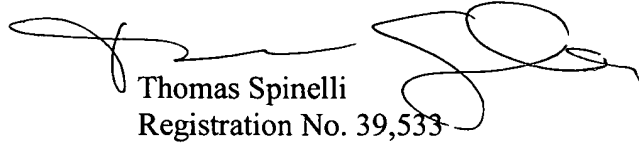
Group V, Claim 19, drawn to a control system, classified in class 607, subclass 60.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV and V are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction requirement, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1-12. However, Applicant reserves the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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